Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

Stunning Handcraft of Hoshiarpur
by
Shri. Rupan Matharu and Sanmati Hosure
IDC, IIT Bombay

**Source:**
**https://dsource.in/resource/plastic-inlay-wood-punjab**

1. History of Inlay Work
2. Shri Rupan Matharu
3. Tools and Raw Materials
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## History of Inlay Work

In the Punjab region, wood inlay work took off approximately 200-250 years. Initially the artists started doing inlay work on Indian musical instruments such as Piano keys, Veena, Swarmandal, Taanpoora and Sitar but with the passage of time, the artists started manufacturing furniture items such as inlaid tables, chairs, wooden almirahas, jewellery boxes, chest boxes, trays and other items of daily use and decorated them with ivory. At that time, use of high quality Sasoo (shisham) wood, Rose wood, Teak (saagwan) wood, Abnoy and other harden wood was prevalent on which the inlay work with ivory was in fashion. However, on account of its growing popularity in India and abroad, its export came into existence in Hoshiarpur in the year 1950, and a few businessmen established their export houses.

Wooden products of Hoshiarpur due to its unique craftsmanship occupied a considerable place in various news items, magazines and other circular papers. But rapidly growing scarcity of ivory, ban on use and sale of ivory in any form was imposed by the Government of India in the year 1975 as such use of ivory was replaced with gold inlay work, silver inlay work, aluminium, brass, camel bone, sankh, pearl and best quality of acrylic plastic. By the end of decade 1980-90, approximately 1700 families adopted this work as their profession and started increased earning and livelihood out of it and gradually they became skilful artists in inlay work. Owing to exploitation of the working class by the reputed business houses and less availability of raw material, most of the families engaged in this profession have separated themselves and their successors switched over to other profession. However, under the government patronage and efforts of its functionaries, this profession is still alive though at the lingering stage.

Now-a-days, a few people learn this unique art just for their loving nature or as a part of their study project. If no concrete efforts are made for the growth of this art, its future seems to be dark in the prevalent scenario and circumstances though there is fervent demand of these antique products which is growing day by day. It is a matter of great proud that the creation of Artists Atta Singh finds a gracious place in the UK museum. Appreciating the uniqueness of this art, our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented a chest decorated with the designs created with inlay work on a Shisham wood to the Honourable President of USA Shri Donald Trump. It has injected a great sense of enthusiasm and courage amongst the artisan class of Hoshiarpur City.

Table Top.

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Decorative Elephant with Howdah.

Walking stick with eagle handle.

Jewellery Box.

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Kamaljit with his stall at India Craft Week 2021.

Kamaljit at India Craft Week 2021.

Rupan Matharu with his award winning art.

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## Shri Rupan Matharu

Shri Rupan Matharu son of late Shri Rajan Matharu residence of Hoshiarpur hails from a family of reputed artisan and art critics of Hoshiarpur. Shri Rupan Matharu is the fifth generation in the family maintaining inlay craft and is luminary among today's inlay work artisans. He has a distinction of being honoured with State Award in the year 1989 by the Government of Punjab, National Merit Certificate from Development Commissioner (Handicraft) Government of India, New Delhi in the year 1994. National Award 1997 was presented by Bharat Ratan Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shilp Guru Award 2016 was presented by Textile Minister Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani and Raman Singh Chief minister of Chhattisghar.

Shri Rupan Matharu has trained more than 180 artisans in the field of wood inlay craft under "Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme" (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India) and National Centre of Design and Product Development (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India), Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage Community (Ministry of Culture Government of India). He is also creating awareness among school and college students about the rich and traditional craft of wood inlay of district Hoshiarpur (Punjab). Shri Rupan is working for setting up a museum at his work place to preserve his master pieces and to create awareness among the general masses about the rich culture heritage of Punjab.

Shri Rupan has the distinction of involving new motifs, designs in the craft and mechanised the craft of keep pace with the changing time. The Hoshiarpur Handicraft Cluster established by Shri Rupan Matharu in the year 2010 in which around 160 wood inlay artisans of district Hoshiarpur are involved. Some of the artists out of them are State Awardee and some are National Awardees. The artisans has also participated in many national level as well as international level exhibition/ seminar / live demonstration programs till date. Keeping in view the achievement and his contribution for the upliftment of wood inlay work, he has been recognised by many organisations and institutions.

His son Shri Kamaljit Matharu, carrying his family's legacy in wood inlay art. He has also won several National awards. Shri Kamaljit conducted training sessions, participated in national as well as international exhibitions and delivered live demonstrations at many places.

Products created in Design and Technical Development Workshop, Hoshiarpur.

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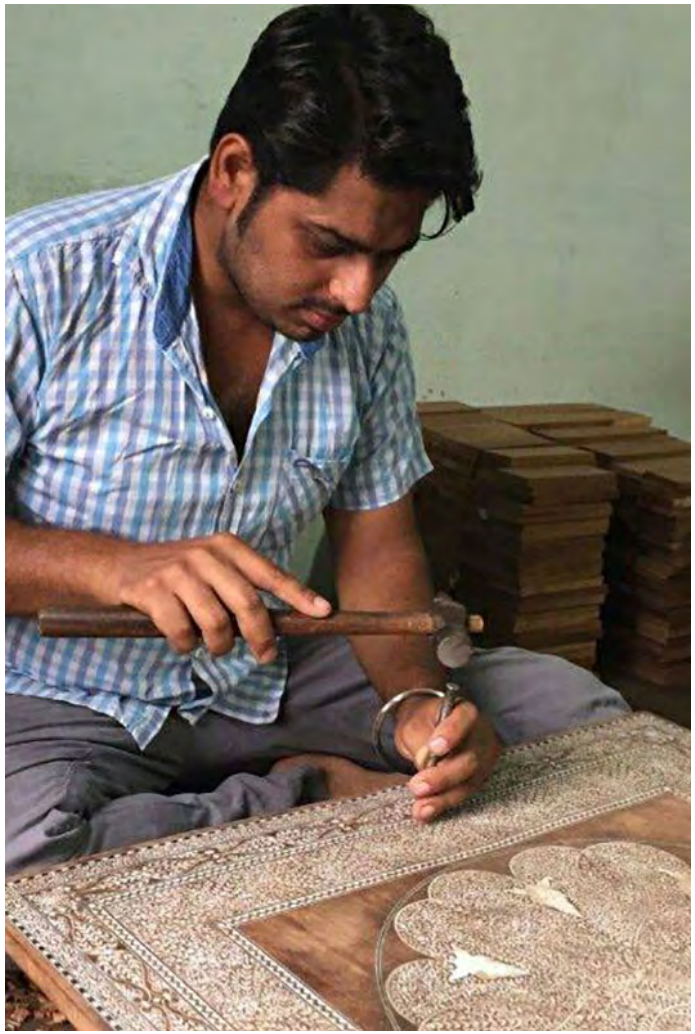

Kamaljit Kaur.

Kamaljit with his stall at India Craft Week 2021.

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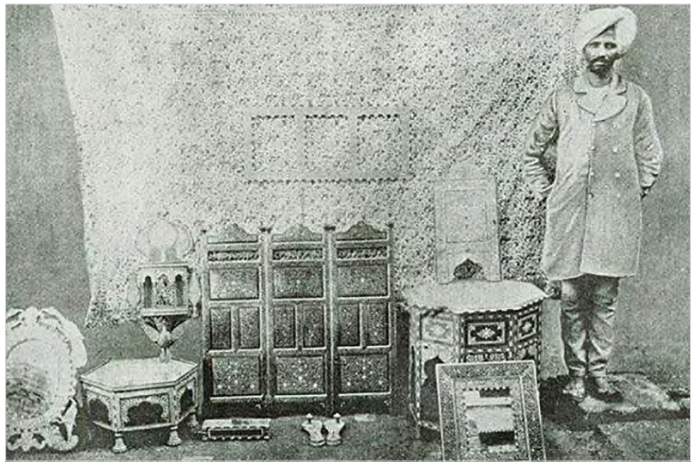
Design and Technology Development Workshop.

Master Craftsman Mr. Rupan Matharu receiving National Award, 2016.



Masters Creation Started Since 1945.

Mr. Kamaljit interacting with Customers at Sao Paulo, Brazil 2013.

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Master Craftsman Mr. Rupan Matharu receiving National Award, 2016.

Mr. Rupan Mathur receiving National Award from Prime Minister Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1997.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for Plastic Inlay on wood are:

• **Sheesham Wood:** It is used mostly due to its properties like closed pack grains, has natural oil, is heavy, moderately coarse and has uniform texture.

• **Chisels:** Chisels of different shape are used to engrave the wooden block.

• **Hex Saw:** It is used for cutting the wood.

• **Hand or Bow Drill:** It is used for drilling purpose to make holes into required places.

• **Hathodi (Hammer):** Hammer is used to carve out the design on the wood by gently beating on the chisel. It is used for inlaying the plastic or metal wire into the wood. These hammers are mostly square and circular headed.

• **Scrapper:** It is used to plain/smoothen the surface of the wood in manufacturing and finishing.

• **Fevicol:** A mixture of Fevicol and wooden powder dust is mixed and used as putty to fill the gaps.

• **Wooden Powder Dust:** It is mixed with Fevicol and the paste is applied to fill the gaps between inlay and wood.

Various small chisels, forceps, awl etc. are used in Inlay works.

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A handsaw is used to trim the wood as per the intended length.

A scraper is used to scrape the surface of the wood.

Fevicol, and saw dust is mixed together to make putty which is applied using the metal strip.

Hammers with small heads make it easy to beat on thin plastic wires.

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Hexa machine used to cut patterns in wood.

Machine used for cutting and planning the wood.

Plastic Flower being used for Inlay Work.

Plastic Flower used for Inlay Work

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Wood marker, sandpaper and saw dust are used for different purposes during the process.

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## Making Process

Accurate and right selection of wood from Sasso tree (Sheesham wood) Teak wood , Rose wood, Serean Resin, Abnoy and Babool is the foremost requirement for inlay work. Traditional Inlay work in Hoshiarpur (Punjab) is being carried out on Sasso wood (Sheesham wood) having an age of atleast 50-60 years old with a circular shaped diameter of 7ft to 10ft.

Selected piece of stem of Sheesham wood is seasoned keeping it dipped in a water for five to six months which is a natural process of wood seasoning. In this process, the outer layer and raw wood layer of the twig become extremely soft and these layers are separated from the hard inner layers of main piece of wood. Residual piece of wood is kept for drying in natural way for approximately six months. Subsequently the size of the seasoned piece of wood is prepared as per specifications of the product with the help of an electric wood cutting machine. From this log of wood, round as well as flat pieces of wood are further cut and left for drying in the atmosphere for six months more so that the moisture contents available in the wood is dried completely. In this way the piece of wood is finally ready for engraving and inlay work.

Then the material to be used for inlay work is chosen. In the earlier period, for inlay work ivory material was popular for decorating and designing the selected piece of wood but due to prohibition and imposition of ban on ivory in the year 1975, various other substitute materials such as camel bone, shallow shell, oyster shell, gold, copper, aluminium, marble and acrylic plastic sheet, etc. are being used for inlay work.

As inlay is the practice of incising a design onto a hard usually flat surface by cutting grooves into it, so we rely on hand drawing skills, images and common design elements while creating the elegant design of the proposed artwork. Just before commencing inlay creations, the work to be carved out is lightly scribed and engraved on the surface with the help of patterns, pharmas (stencils) using few specialized tools like chisels and hammer due to hardness and temperature requirement. By drawing outlines with the chisels, required portion is carved for inlay filling. Afterwards 8-10 motifs of acrylic plastic in different sizes and designs are made with the help of hand tools like files and thin saw and inlay work on the wood is done according to the size and shape of the wood. The engraved surface is filled with the best quality acrylic plastic and wooden sand with the help of glue and pasting material. This step is the most crucial technique to create a seamless and flawless appearance of the creations on the piece of wood. Adequate time is allowed to the glue and pasting material for its setting before removing it so that the joints may cure to its full strength. After filling the wood powder, it is allowed to be dry and the extra deposits of wood sand and other material is wiped away by applying sharp edged blade carefully and the product is allowed to dry before waxing and sealing. Then application of variety of spray lacquers and finishing techniques are applied to seal and protect the work from exposure to atmospheric elements and time and then buffing is done with a piece of cotton cloth. Resultantly a fine and antique piece of handmade art work is made ready.

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Artists at Workshop.

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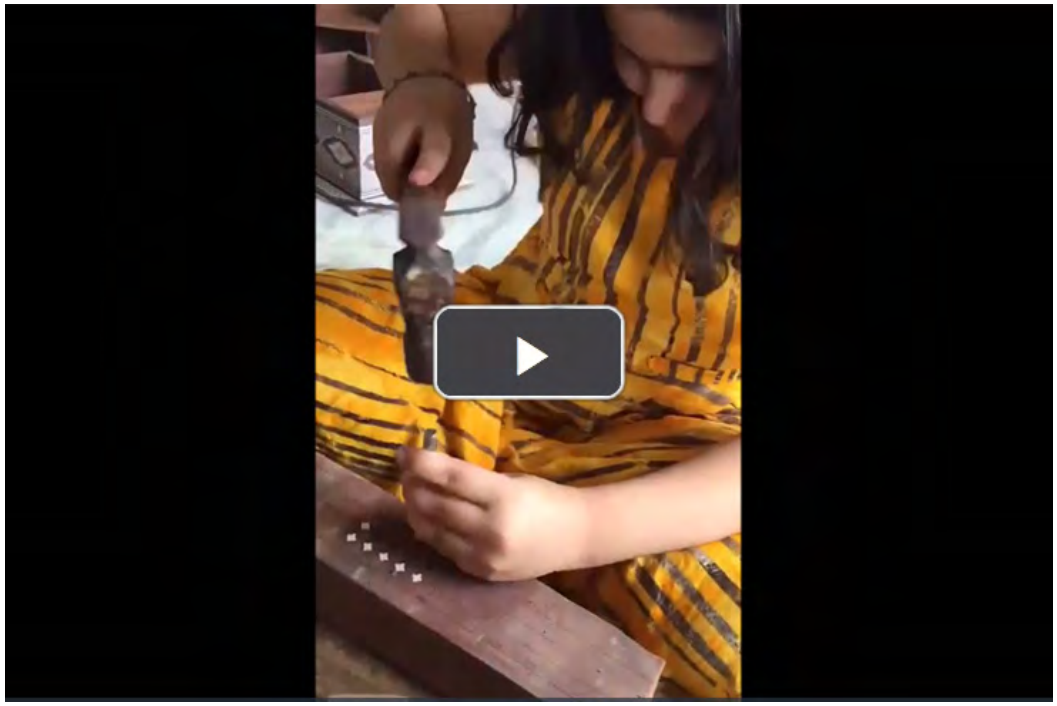

Fixing Square Motifs

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Line Fixing Process

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Table Top Inlay Process

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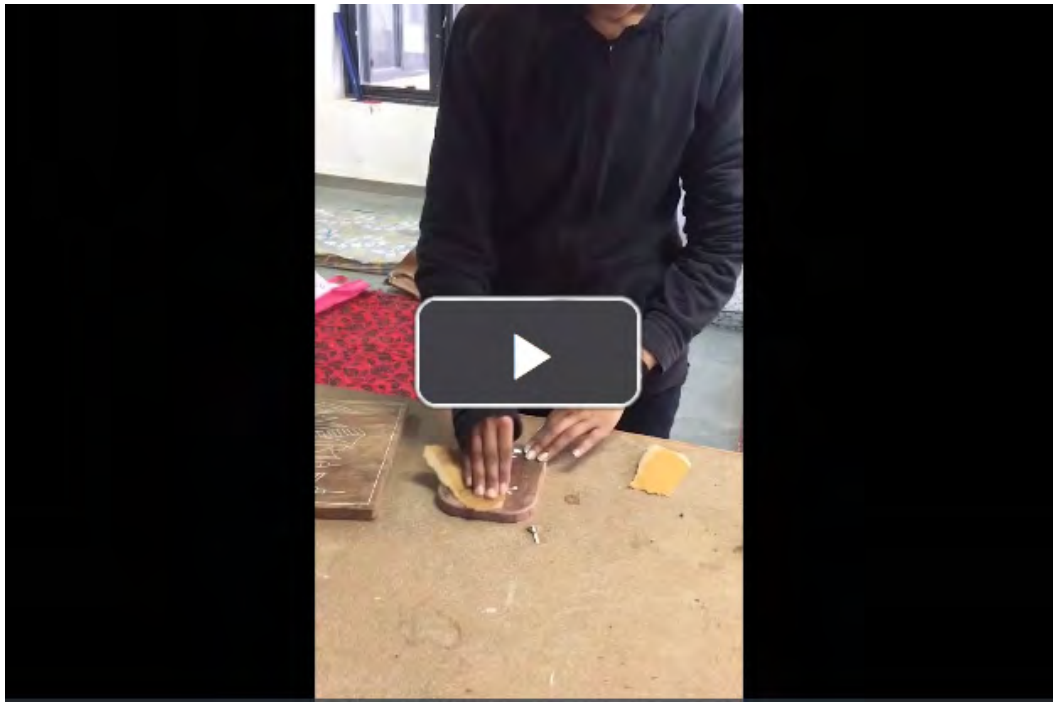

Wood Surface Smoothening Process

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## Products

The traditional inlay woodwork requires a lot of perfection, practice and fine manual labour. The process of making inlay woodworks is a carefully intricate one. Though this art had undergone changes and challenges, the survival of this art owes credit to the persistence and originality of the artisans of the region. A colourful handicrafts bring out the colourful and vibrant spirit of the state of Punjab. The handicrafts of this vibrant state is acclaimed world over. An appealing woodwork is created by a combination of skill and sincere workmanship.

Inlay is a technique of inserting pieces of contrasting colors into the hollow spaces to create a design. It involves engraving foliage patterns, and simple everyday designs are inlaid with either acrylic, plastic, bronze or camel bone. Various products such as inlaid table and chair sets, chest boxes, corners, chess boards, jewelry boxes, trays, elephants and several other items of everyday use are easily spotted in Hoshiarpur.

Apart from traditional products, small utility items like tray, pen stand, jewellery box, photograph frame, flower base, charkha, agarbati stand, etc. are created to meet the market demand. Very few artisans are practicing this craft in Hoshiarpur district but scarcity of Sheesham wood and declining figure of handicraft wood inlay artisans have posed a real threat to this beautiful traditional craft.

Another Variety of Elephant.

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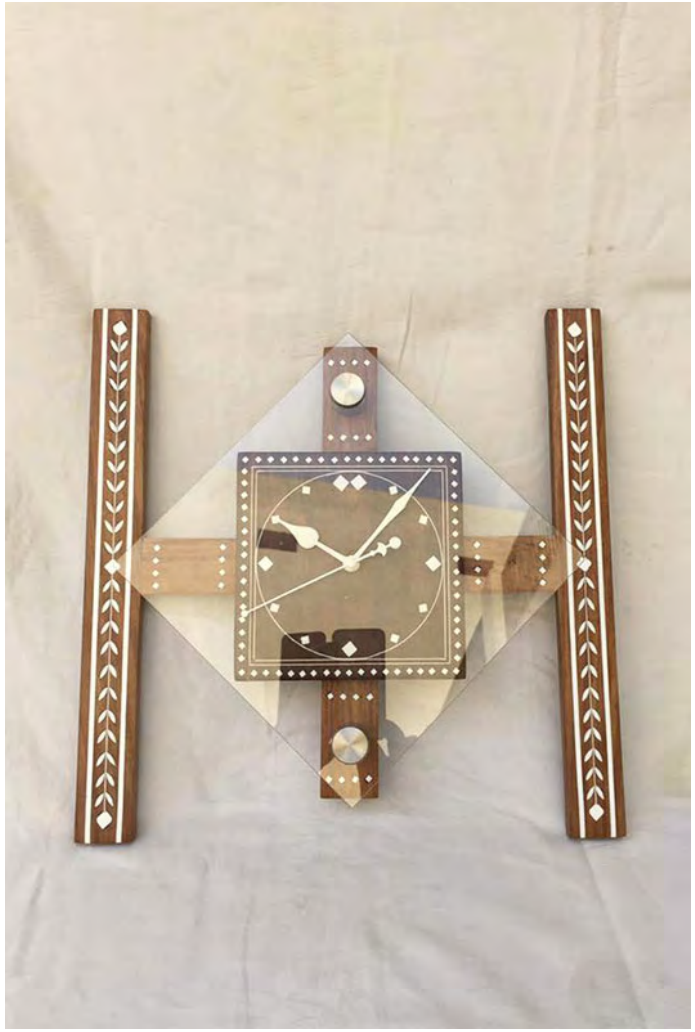

Antique Clock.

Bowl with Spoons.

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Artistically Inlaid Pistol.

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Chakala Belan Set.

Chess Board.

Chess Box.

Chopping Board with Knife.

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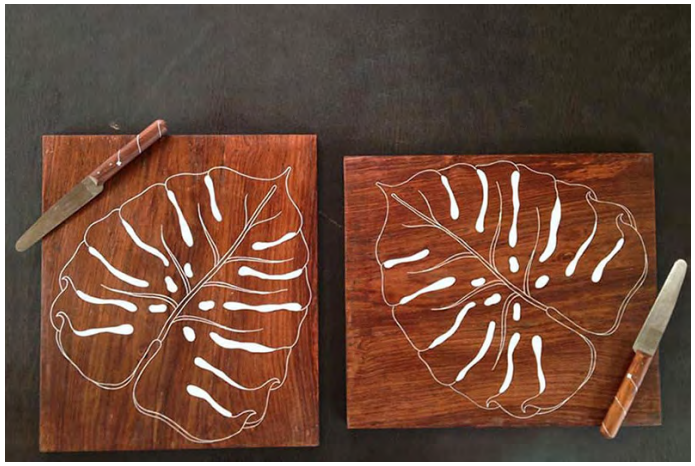
Chopping Board.

Colourful Jewellery Box.

Cute Pen Holder.

Decorative Wall Hanging.

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Jewellery Box.

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Octagon Table Top.

Jewellery Box.

Open Jewellery Box.

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Inlaid Elephant.

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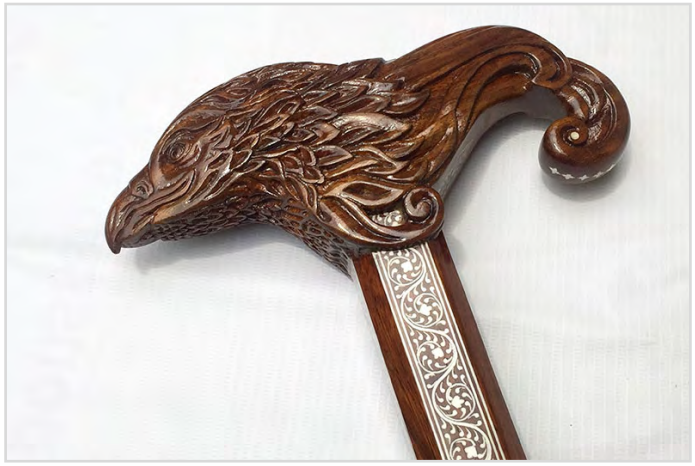
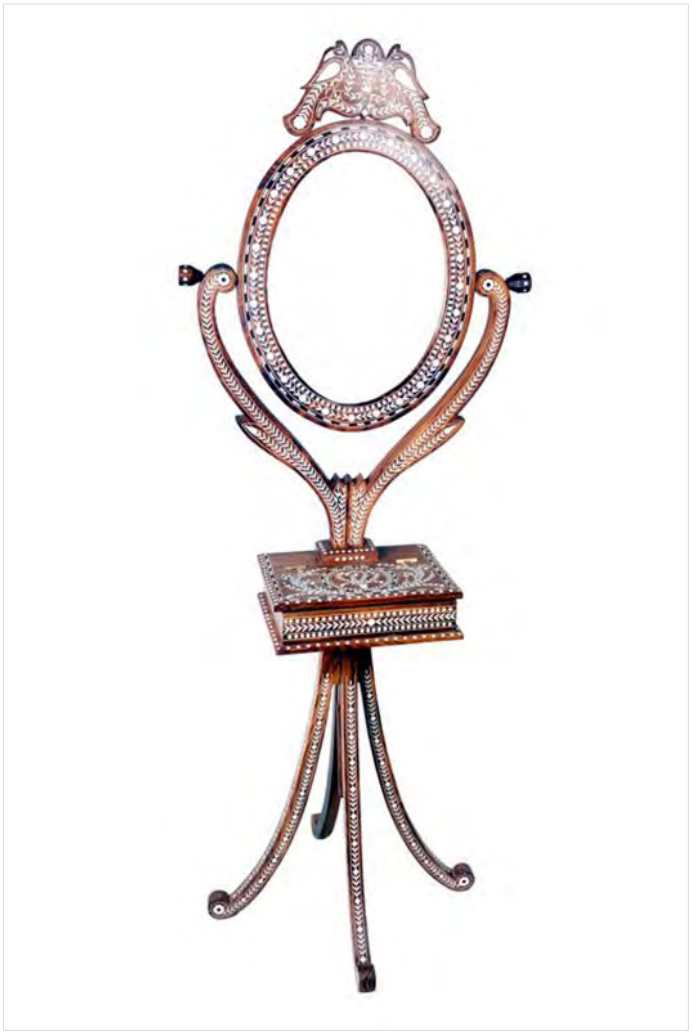


Walking stick with eagle handle.

Pentagon Table.



Dressing Mirror.

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Shri. Rupan Matharu and Sanmati Hosure
IDC, IIT Bombay

**Source:**
**https://dsource.in/resource/plastic-inlay-wood-punjab/products**

1. History of Inlay Work
2. Shri Rupan Matharu
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Inlaid Tray.

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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Elegantly Inlaid Elephant.

Elephant with howdah.

Hand Mirror.

Design Resource

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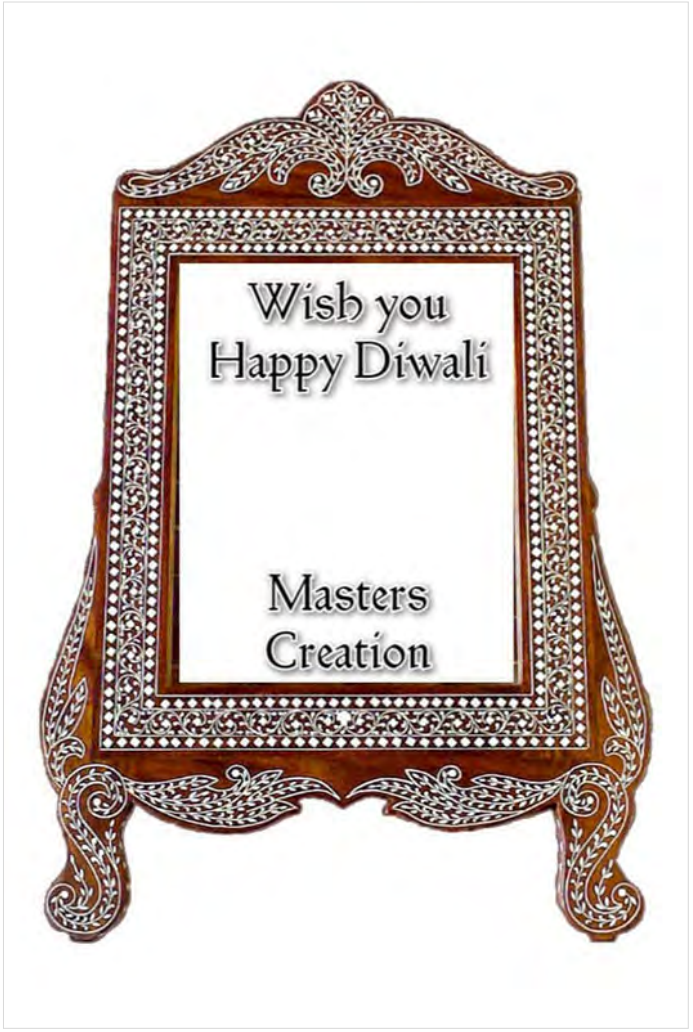


Inlay Mirror Stand.

Jain Mandir's Naman Stand.

Design Resource

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Paduka, a type of footwear from ancient India.

Paper Cutter.

Design Resource

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Jewellery Box.

Laptop Stand.

Nameplate.

Pen Stand.

Design Resource

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Tissu Stand and Coaster Set.

Design Resource

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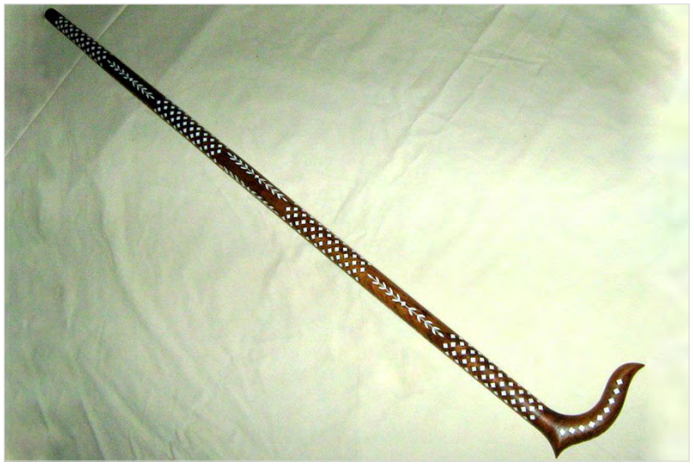
Simple but Beautifil Mobile Holder.

Tissu Paper Stand.



Walking Stick.

Design Resource

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Wall Clock.

Wooden Bowl.

Design Resource

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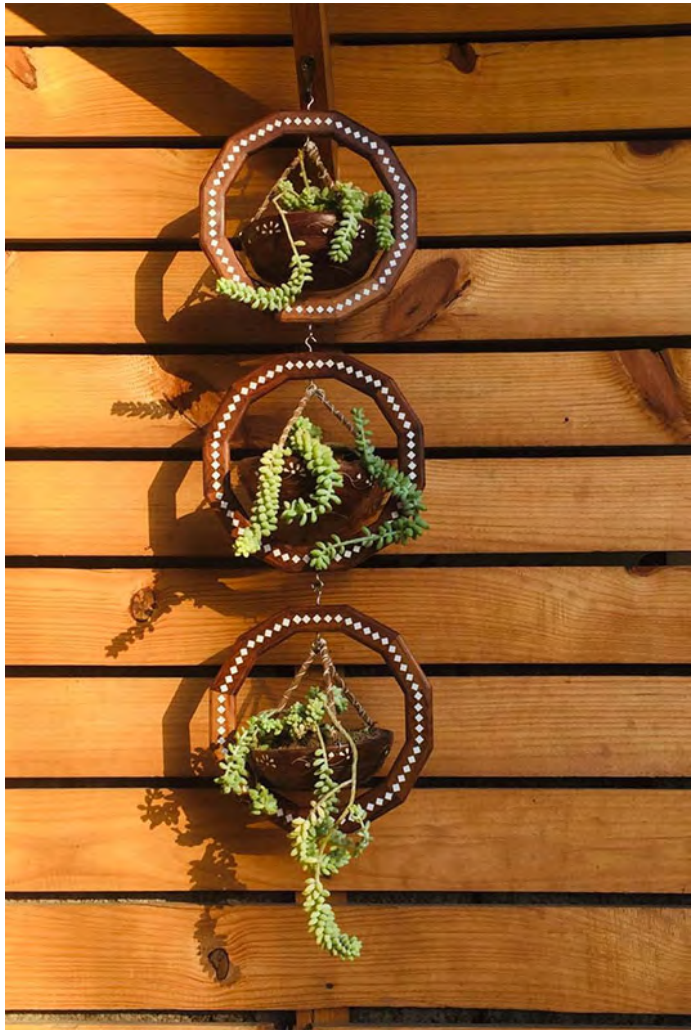
Wooden Inlaid Paduka, a type of footwear from ancient India.



Wooden Inlaid Planter.

Design Resource

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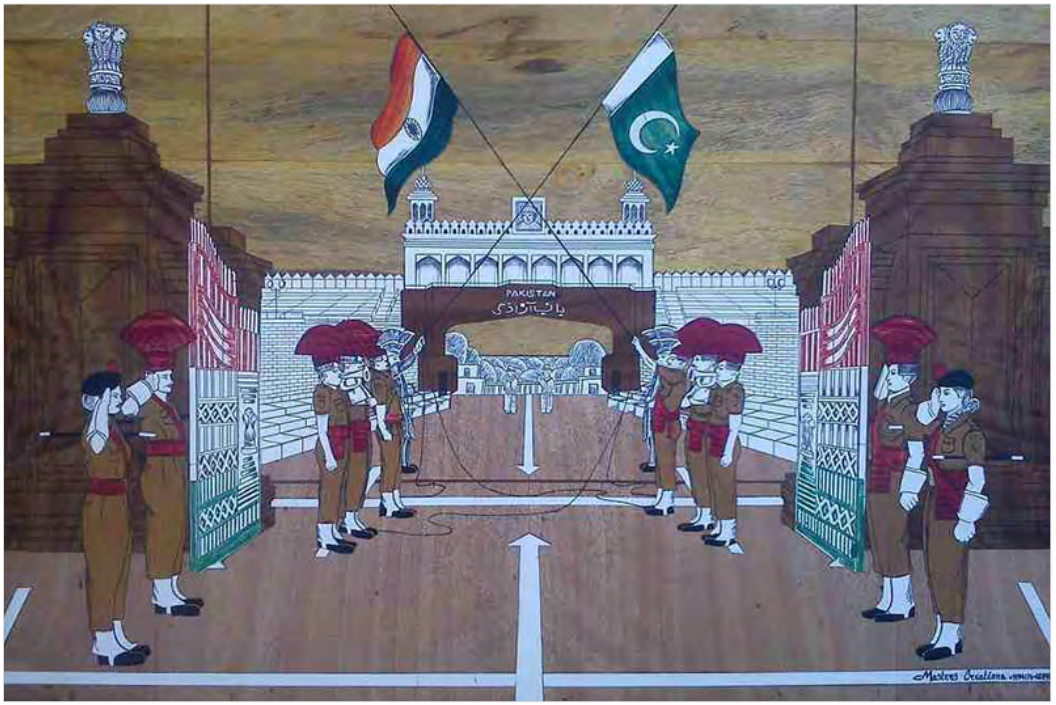


Wooden Inlaid Wagha Border Scene.

Design Resource

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Wooden Utility Box.

Design Resource

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## Awards and Recognitions

**Name:** Shri Rupan Matharu
**Father's Name:** Late Shri Rajan Matharu
**Craft:** Handicraft artisan of wood inlay craft
**Experience:** 35 years

**Awards**

- Shilp Guru Award presented in the year 2016.
- State Award presented in the year 1989.
- National Merit Certificate 1994.
- National Award presented by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the year 1997.
- Kala Nidhi Award conferred by Haryana Tourism and awarded by the Governor of Haryana in the year 2008.

**National Level Exhibitions / Demonstrations**

- Shilparamam Crafts Village Gram, 2000 at Hyderabad.
- Delhi Fair 2003, at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi.
- Connaught Place, 2005 at Rajiv Gandhi Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
- International Trade Fair, 2006 at Pragrati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Jawahar Kala Kiynder 2008, at Jaipur.
- Surajkund Craft Mela, 2008, 2013, 2015 at Faridabad Hariyana.
- Master Creations 2010, 2013 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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**International Level Exhibitions / Demonstrations**

• Participated in Expo-2000 in Santiago, Chile organized by Indian Trade Promotion Organization.

• Participated in the House and Gift fair -2010 Sao Paulo, Brazil organized by DC (Handicrafts) in collaboration with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

• Participated in the New York International Gift Show-2011 in New York, USA Organized DC (Handicrafts) in collaboration with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

**Participation in Workshops**

• Participated as craftsman six months Design Workshop for 50 artisans' w.e.f.25-06-2013 to 22-01-2014. Sponsored by National Center for Design and Product Development (set-up by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India).

• Participated as craftsman in the Design and Technical Development Workshop in Wood Inlay Craft at Common Facility Centre, village Boothgarh, Hoshiarpur from 18.02.2013 to 04.03.2013 organised by Regional Design and Technical Development Centre, New Delhi.

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in the Design and Technical Workshop in Wood Inlay Craft from 29.03.2017 to 28.04.2017 organised by National Center for Design and Product Development, New Delhi.

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in the Design workshop in Wood Inlay Craft at Ram Colony Camp, Hoshiarpur from 18.08.2017 to 31.08.2017 organised by Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi.

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in the Design workshop in Wood Inlay Craft from24.04.2018 to 28.04.2018 organised by National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Chheb, Kangra.

• Certificate of participation as expert in plastic inlay in wood craft in programme "Meri Kala Mera Kasab" at Doordarshan Kendra, Jalandhar on 17.12.2009.

• Certificate of interview in Sanati Dunia Programme at All India Radio, Jalandhar on 31.10.2017.

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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**Awareness Seminars in Collages and Institutes**

• Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology Government of Punjab, Mohali.

• Pearl Academy Collage of Art, Design and Fashion from Noida.

• National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Chheb, Kangra Depute students to learn the skill in the craft.

• Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G. T. Road, Phagwara, Punjab.

**Training Imparted**

• Under Guru Shishya Parampara sponsored by office of the DC (Handicrafts), I have trained more than 120 trainees as master craft person in the field of wood inlay craft from 2011-12 ,2012-13 & 2013-14.

• I have trained more than 877 trainees as master craftsman in the field of wood inlay craft from six month under the Sfurti Programme Organization of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and NGO, the Rural Environmental Enterprises Development Society, Chandigarh.

• I have trained more than 350 trainees as master craftsman in the Design Development Workshop in wood inlay craft from 01.07.2009 to 30.06.2012 organised by NGO, the Rural Environmental Enterprises Development Society, at Chandigarh.

**Visitors**
A large no of professors/school/students/interior designers from NIDF Ahmedabad, NIFT Delhi, NIFT Mohali and NIFT Jalandhar visited my work place from time to time and they were all very appreciative about the master pieces created by us.

**Name:** Shri Kamaljit Matharu
**Father Name:** Shri Rupan Matharu
**Craft:** Handicraft artisan of wood inlay craft
**Experience:** 25 years

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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**Awards**

- National Award 2016 (Ministry of Textile).
- National award 2009 (Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises).
- National merit certificate 2009 (Ministry of Textile).

**National Level Exhibitions / Demonstrations**

- 8th Parvasi Bhartiya Divas 2010, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Dilli Haat (Masters Creation) 2010.
- Indian International Trade Fair 2011, at Pragrati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Suraj Kundinter National Craft Fair 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2020 at Faridabad.
- Lokotsav 2018 at Daryasangam, Kala Academy, Panaji-Goa.
- Saras Mela 2018 at Hoshiarpur, Punjab.

**International Level Exhibitions / Demonstration**

- Participated in 6th National Handicraft Week 2020, at Marrakech, Morocco by Ministry of Textile Department.
- Participated in House and Gift Fair 2013, Saopaulo, Brazil organized by Indian Trade Promotion Organization.
- Participated in International Spring Fair 2013, at NEC, Birmingham, UK Organized by DC (Handicrafts) in collaboration with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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**Participation in Workshops**

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in Design Development Workshop in wood inlay craft at Boothgarh, Hoshiarpur in association with The Rural Environmental Enterprises Development Society.

• Certificate of participation as master trainer in the Design and Technical Workshop in wood inlay craft from 26.11.2015to 24.12.2015 organised by National Centre for Design and Product Development, New Delhi.

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in Design and Technical Development workshop in wood inlay craft from 18.08.2017to 31.08.2017 organised by Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi, Atram colony camp, Hoshiarpur.

• Certificate of participation as master craftsman in the Design Workshop in Wood inlay craft from 24.04.2018 to 28.04.2018 organised by National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Chheb, Kangra.

Received Shilp Guru Award 2016 on this chest box.

Design Resource

# Plastic Inlay on Wood - Punjab

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Ministry of Textiles
Government of India
Scroll of Honour
"SHILP GURU"
2016
This Honour of Shilp Guru is conferred on
Shri Rupan Matharu
for development of Plastic Inlay on Wood
and his/her contribution in Handicraft sector.

Shilp Guru Award, 2016.

National Award, 1997.

Design Resource

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Ministery of Textiles adorning Chest box made by Shri Rupan.

Design Resource

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Shri Rupan received National Award on this table.

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Certificate of Merit, 1994-1995.

22nd Surajkund Crafts Mela 2008
1st - 15th February
SurajKund Mela Authority
is pleased to award the title
Kala Nidhi
to Sh. Rupan Matharu
of Punjab
for his/her outstanding contribution towards
Plastic Inlay on Wood
at the 22nd Surajkund Crafts Mela held from
1st to 15th February, 2008
at the Surajkund Tourist Complex.
Member Administration

Kala Nidhi Award, 2008.

Design Resource

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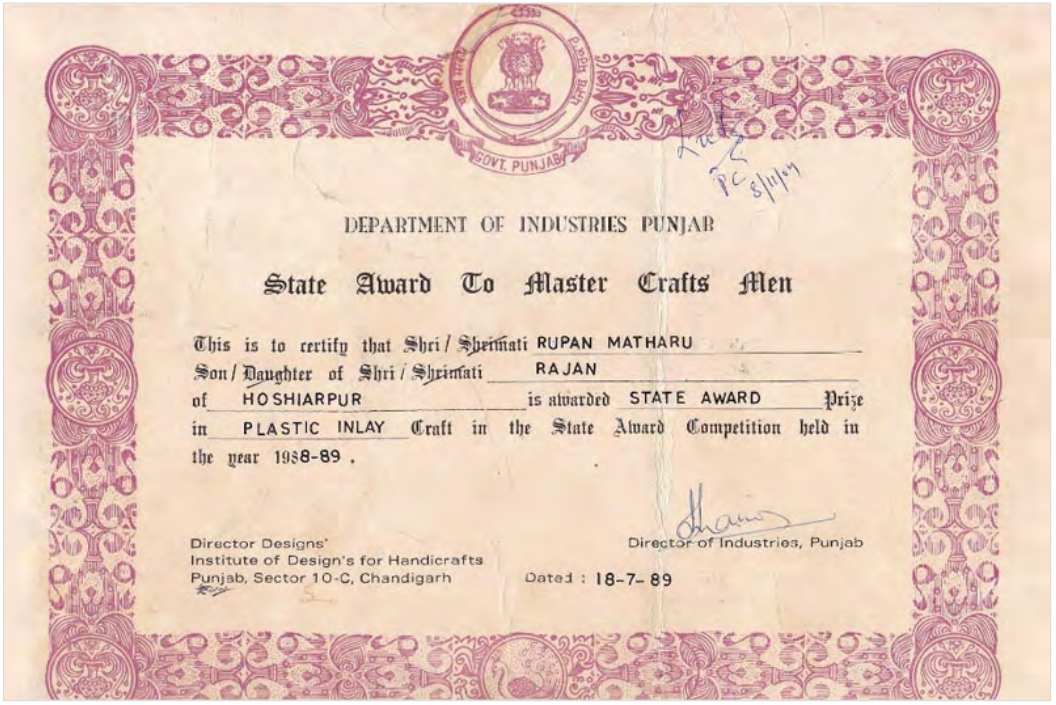

GOVT. PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES PUNJAB

State Award To Master Crafts Men

This is to certify that Shri / Shrimati RUPAN MATHARU
Son / Daughter of Shri / Shrimati RAJAN
of HOSHIARPUR is awarded STATE AWARD Prize
in PLASTIC INLAY Craft in the State Award Competition held in
the year 1988-89 .

Director Designs'
Institute of Design's for Handicrafts
Punjab, Sector 10-C, Chandigarh

Director of Industries, Punjab

Dated : 18-7-89

State Award, 1989.

Design Resource

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Expo India 2000 Certificate from Shri Ram Mohan, Ambassador of India to Chile.

Exhibition Hall, Brazil.

Exhibition Stall at Brazil.

मठारू पिता-पुत्र को राष्ट्रपति करेंगे सम्मानित

मोदी ने ट्रंप को भेंट की थी दोनों के हाथों से तैयार चेस्ट

Article published in regional newspaper.

Design Resource

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Students of Northern India Institute of Fashion Technology Collage.

Students of Pearl Academy.

Students of NIFT, Kangra.

Award winning table.

Design Resource

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Shri Rupan making bowls during Design and Technical workshop at village Boothgarh.

Father and son at award ceremony.

Kamaljit at In House _ Gift Fair 2013 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Master Craftsman Mr. Rupan Matharu receiving National Award, 2016.

Design Resource

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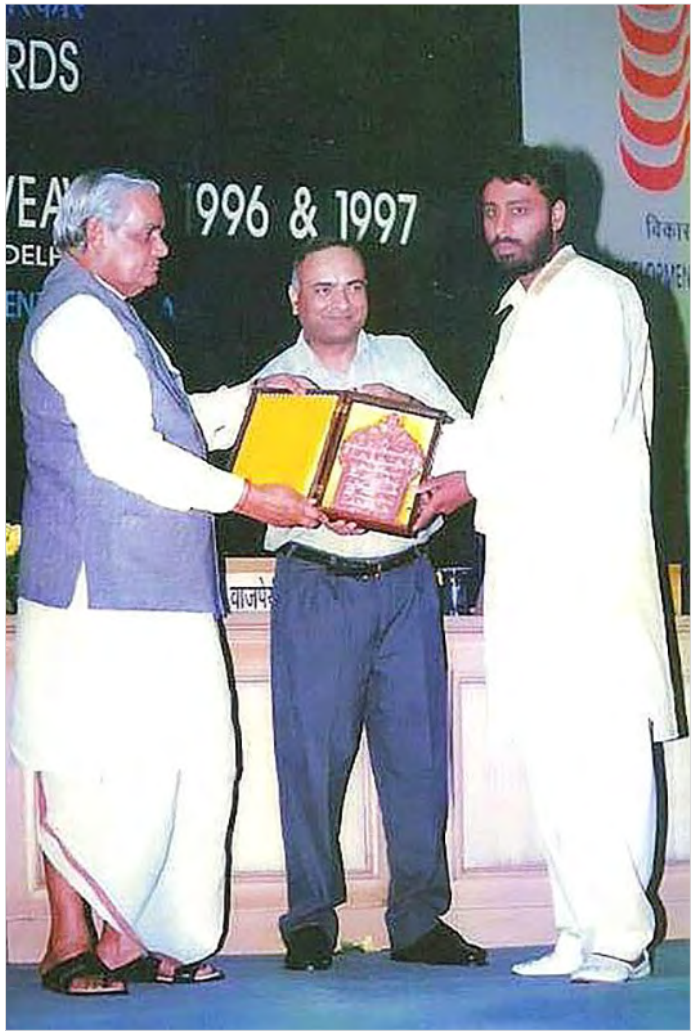
Mr. Kamaljit Kaur receiving National Award, 2016.

Earth News
ART & CULTURE
Carrying forward the Generations' Rich Legacy

Article in Earth News newspaper.




Mr. Rupan Mathur receiving National Award from Prime Minister Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1997.

Design Resource

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2 होशियारपुर सवेरा टाइम्स
www.dainiksavera.com facebook/dainiksavera

# 2 दिवसीय हस्तकला कार्यशाला का शुभारंभ

हस्तकला को प्रोत्साहित करने को विजय सांपला के माध्यम से दिलवाएंगे विशेष सहायता : साहिल

संबोधित करते साहिल सांपला, (मध्य) उपस्थित कला प्रेमी तथा (दाएं) अपने सुझाव देते नैशनल अवार्डी हस्तकला माहिर। (सतीश)

होशियारपुर, 30 मार्च (डोगरा) : सुतैहरी रोड स्थित एक होटल में हस्तकला माहिरों द्वारा 2 दिवसीय कार्यशाला का शुभारंभ किया गया जिसका उद्घाटन केन्द्रीय राज्य मंत्री विजय सांपला के पुत्र साहिल सांपला ने किया। इस मौके सिमरजोत सिंह फंक्शनल मैनेजर बंसी लाल व पूर्व सहायक डायरैक्टर हस्तकला इकबाल सिंह ने हस्तकला की उपलब्धियों पर चर्चा की। इस मौके साहिल सांपला ने कहा कि हस्तकला के लिए होशियारपुर का नाम विशेष स्थानों पर लिया जाता है। उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया कि वह इसे और प्रफुल्लित करने के लिए केन्द्रीय राज्य मंत्री विजय सांपला के माध्यम से विशेष पैकेज दिलवाने का प्रयास करेंगे। इस मौके पर बंसी लाल ने बताया कि होशियारपुर की हस्तकला खासकर बुधगढ़ की हस्तकला पूरे विश्व में प्रसिद्ध है तथा इंगलैंड की महारानी के महल में आज भी यहां के कलाकारों की हस्तकलाएं रखी हुई हैं। मगर खेद की बात है कि इस कला को प्रोत्साहन न मिलने के कारण आज इस क्षेत्र में कार्य करने वाले हजारों कारीगरों की संख्या कम होकर सिमट गई है। इस मौके नैशनल अवार्डी व स्टेट अवार्डी रूपन मठारू व उनका बेटा कमलजीत, श्रीवंश भंडारन, सुखविंदर कौर, बलदेव कृष्ण, प्यारा राम, प्रेम सरूप, पदम कुमार, गुरमेल चंद, राम प्रकाश, कुलजीत सिंह गुलेरिया, जोगिंदर सिंह, निपुण शर्मा, भारत भूषण वर्मा आदि मौजूद थे।

Article in Dainiksavera, regional newspaper.

2 होशियारपुर सवेरा टाइम्स
www.dainiksavera.com facebook/dainiksa

हुनर आजीविका को अपनाया लकड़ी में पच्चीकारी का हस्तशिल्प कार्य

# उत्कृष्ट कला कौशल से राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता बने रूपन मथारू

होशियारपुर, 3 मई (राकेश) : हस्तशिल्पी रूपन मथारू महान शिल्पी है जिन्होंने अपने कला कौशल द्वारा जनमानस में एक विशेष स्थान बनाया। उनकी उत्कृष्ट प्रतिभा को पहचानते हुए भारत सरकार ने उन्हें राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया। अपने अतीत को स्मरण करते हुए श्री रूपन मथारू जी कहते हैं कि उस समय गांव बुधगढ़ में लकड़ी में पच्चीकारी (जिसे पहले हाथी दांत के शिल्प के नाम से जाना जाता था) का कार्य करने वाले 30-35 हस्तशिल्पी निरंतर कार्यरत रहते थे। बुजुर्ग शिल्पी नए शिल्पकारों को बढ़िया से बढ़िया कार्य करने को प्रेरित करते एवं शिल्पकारों को बढ़िया से बढ़िया कार्य करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित भी करते। वहीं अपने दादा स्व. हजारा सिंह जी से तथा दादा के भाई दौलत सिंह जी के मार्गदर्शन में चौथी-पांचवी कक्षा में पढ़ते हुए ही रूपन जी ने इस अद्भुत हस्तशिल्प के गुर सीखने आरंभ कर दिए थे। इसी बीच इन्हें अपने पिता राजन मथारू जो हिमाचल प्रदेश आई.सी.आई. में प्रशिक्षक के पद पर कार्यरत थे, के साथ पौंटा साहिब जाना पड़ गया। वहां संगीत कला में इनका साक्षात्कार हुआ। राजन मथारू हवाई गिटार के बहुत निपुण कलाकार थे और कार्यालय के बाद जिज्ञासुओं को संगीत कला का प्रशिक्षण देते थे। वहीं रूपन मथारू का संगीत प्रशिक्षण प्रत्यक्ष अथवा प्रोक्ष रूप में होता चला गया।

नियति को कुछ और ही मंजूर था। 1980 में पिता के आकस्मिक देहांत के कारण इन्हें पौंटा साहिब से पुनः बुधगढ़ आना पड़ गया। परिवार का सारा बोझ इनके कंधों पर आ गया। उस समय विवशता में आजीविका कमाने हेतु इन्होंने लकड़ी में पच्चीकारी के हस्तशिल्प कार्य को अपना लिया। इनके एक साथी बलदेव कृष्ण ने इन्हें राज्य सरकार के पुरस्कार हेतु अपनी कलाकृति भेजने को प्रेरित किया। इनकी बनाई कलाकृति को न केवल सराहा गया बल्कि 1989 में इन्हें स्टेट अवार्ड देकर सम्मानित भी किया गया। इसके पश्चात इन्होंने 1994 में भारत सरकार विकास आयुक्त हस्तशिल्प कार्यालय से राष्ट्रीय श्रेष्ठता प्रमाणपत्र अर्जित किया। अंततः इनकी साधना एवं कर्मनिष्ठा रंग लाई और इन्हें 1997 में पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने श्रेष्ठतम शिल्पी के रूप में भारत सरकार, वस्त्र मंत्रालय विकास आयुक्त कार्यालय की ओर राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार देकर सम्मानित किया।

रूपन मथारू विदेशों में भी अपना कला कौशल का परिचय दे चुके हैं। आप चिली, ब्राजील एवं न्यूयार्क में आयोजित हस्तशिल्प प्रदर्शनियों में भाग ले चुके है तथा समय-समय पर भारत सरकार की गुरु शिष्य प्रशिक्षण स्कीम के अंतर्गत जिज्ञासुओं को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान कर शिल्प के विकास में अपना विशिष्ट योगदान देते रहे है। दीप नगर, फगवाड़ा रोड होशियारपुर निवासी रूपन मथारू जी का सम्पूर्ण परिवार जिनमें इनकी धर्मपत्नी तजिंदर कौर, पुत्र वधू हरकमल मथारू एवं राष्ट्रीय प्रमाण पत्र से सम्मानित आप का पुत्र कमलजीत आप के सहयोगी बनकर कला के विस्तार एवं उत्थान में निरंतर अपना योगदान दे रहे है।

रूपन मथारू कलाकृति का निर्माण करते। (वर्मा)

Article in Dainiksavera, regional newspaper.

Design Resource

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Source:
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The Tribune (Jalandhar Edition) 4/16

After getting the information from the state Health Department, Civil Surgeon Manjit Singh sent a rapid action team of Health officials to the residence of the patient. Officials of the health department conducted the screening of the other family members and neighbourhood of the patient. However, no other suspected case of H1N1 was found.

Singh Longowal said a legal notice would be sent to the director and producer for hurting Sikh sentiments.

He said such blunders could have been prevented, had there been a Sikh representative on the Central Board of Film Certification. Aanand L Rai production 'Manmarziyaan', which also stars Abhishek Bachchan, is directed by Anurag Kashyap.—TNS

police station.

In her statement, she alleged that the officer (AIG) had been harassing her for the past four months. She said he had been compelling her to have physical relations. She claimed that the AIG had threatened to implicate her in false cases in case she rebuffed him.

Sanjeev Kumar, SHO, had company and requested me to keep a watch on her. She is like my daughter. I used to call her up and ask her to mend her ways. Yesterday, she called me up and questioned my authority. I got angry and scolded her. I am upset as she is portraying me in a bad light."

The complainant is married and has a child, sources said.

the Majithia police station in Jalandhar. Arora submitted that the police were clueless as the CCTV cameras installed in the police station were not functional.

The Bench directed the respondents to appoint non-official visitors to jails in consonance with provisions of the Model Prison Manual-2016 circulated by the Union government.

## Hoshiarpur artisan bags Shilp Guru Award

SANJIV KUMAR BAKSHI

HOSHIARPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

A craftsman from Punjab has received the prestigious Shilp Guru Award by the Union Ministry of Textiles. Rupan Matharu of Hoshiarpur has bagged the award for the year 2016.

Adding another feather to the family's cap, his son Kamaljeet Matharu has been awarded the National Award for Fine Craftsmanship. The duo was honoured at an award ceremony held in Chhattisgarh last week. Eight craftsmen from across the country were awarded Shilp Guru while 25 were given the national award.

Talking to The Tribune, Rupan said he had bagged the award for his entry of the wooden chest that he had crafted over years. He said, "It took me four long years to finish the finely carved wooden chest that was highly appreciated by the awards panel. The sheesham wood chest with fine acrylic inlay work was my entry for the award and it brought the honour that I had been dreaming of for several years. The chest was put on display at the national exhibition organised at the award ceremony venue and it was priced at Rs 70 lakh." Rupan was awarded a Tamra Patra, a gold medal, a certificate and cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

Rupal's son Kamaljeet also bagged the National Award for Fine Craftmanship for a wooden table with acrylic inlay work. Kamaljeet said, "As I was also undertaking commercial activities to earn bread and butter for my family, it took me around four years to complete the table. It is a matter of great honour for me especially when my father too has been honoured with the top award of Shilp Guru on the same stage." Kamaljeet's article was priced at Rs 16 lakh in the exhibition. Kamaljeet was given a Tamra Patra, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

Rupan said it was not easy to carve the articles as not only the chest was to be made and the inlay work was to be done, they had to even prepare their own tools.

Rupan Matharu had come into limelight when a wooden chest crafted by him was selected by the PM's Office and then presented by Narendra Modi to US President Donald Trump during his US visit.

MASTER CRAFTSMEN

Rupan Matharu was awarded for a wooden chest with fine acrylic inlay work, while his son Kamaljeet got the National Award for Fine Craftsmanship for creating a wooden table with the same technique. The duo was honoured at an award ceremony held recently in Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh admires a wooden chest built by Hoshiarpur-based craftsmen Rupan Matharu (left).

Article in The Tribune, Jalandhar Edition newspaper.

IN PICS

Jalandhar Tribune 02

## WOODWORK WIZARDS

As the state government announced to set up Wood Park in Hoshiarpur, *Tribune* correspondent **Deepkamal Kaur** and lensman **Sarabjit Singh** take you through the ins and outs of the superlative wood inlay art being done here

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION VACANT

A Fun Zone

OPERATIONS MANAGER

DISCLAIMER

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Article in Jalandhar Tribune newspaper.

Design Resource

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02 PUNJAB The Tribune JALANDHAR | WEDNESDAY | 28 JUNE 2017

Hoshiarpur's wooden wonder is Modi's gift to Trump

22-INCH CHEST It took award-winning father-son duo seven months to craft *sheesham* item with intricate inlay

SANJIV KUMAR BAKSHI

HOSHIARPUR, JUNE 27

A wooden chest gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to US President Donald Trump has been crafted by a local artisan, Kamaljit Matharu (31), and his father, Rupan Matharu (52), both national awardees. Priced at Rs 1.55 lakh and made from *sheesham* wood, the 22-inch×15-inch chest had been handed over by them to New Delhi-based Central Cottage Industries (CCI) Emporium, which falls under the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCICI), in March 2016.

Awaiting its sale for the past over a year, they were told recently that the item had been sent to the PMO. Early in his workshop outside his house on the Hoshiarpur-Phagwara road, Kamaljit said, "It took us over seven months to make the intricately patterned chest. It's one of our masterpieces."

Rupan said six generations of his family had been involved in craftsmanship. "My grandfather was an instructor at Government Arts and Crafts College, Chandigarh. Later, my father was appointed there. After my father's death in 1980, we returned to our ancestral village, Boothgarh, in Hoshiarpur," he said.

Financial problems made Rupan give up studies at the age of 15 and join the family profession. "The sales were poor during the first few years as the prices were too low, but I did not lose hope," he added.

In 1969, he received the state award for craftsmanship, followed by the Ministry of Textiles' National Merit Award for Crafts (1994) and the National Award for Craftsmanship (1997) of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. Kamaljit joined his father at the age of 18 and went on to win the National Merit Award for Crafts and the National Award for Craftsmanship in 2009. Both have been part of Indian exhibitions in the UK, Brazil and other countries.

According to Rupan, the price of an item depends on the artistic inlay. "We have objects with rates ranging from Rs 75 to Rs 4 lakh. We send these to the CCI Emporium. After their sale, the amount is transferred into our account by the CCICI," he said. Both said they preferred deals with the CCICI rather than private players as the former was a reliable government undertaking.

Priced at ₹1.55 lakh, the chest was handed over by artisans Kamaljit Matharu and his father Rupan to New Delhi-based Central Cottage Industries Emporium in March 2016

Awaiting its sale for the past over a year, they were told recently that the item had been sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Both consider the chest as one of their best works

Artisan Rupan Matharu crafts an item in his workshop on the Hoshiarpur-Phagwara road on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Article in The Tribune, Punjab Page.

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दैनिक भास्कर

होशियारपुर में बने शृंगार बॉक्स को पीएम मोदी ने ट्रंप को किया भें

Article in Dainik Bhaskar newspaper.

Rupan Matharu conducting workshop at NIFT Kangra.

02

At SARAS Mela, ₹20-lakh table cynosure of all eyes

Wooden decorative items on display at SARAS Mela in Hoshiarpur on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SANJIV KUMAR BAKSHI

HOSHIARPUR, OCTOBER 30

The free entry of women on the eighth day of the regional SARAS Mela attracted a huge crowd of women in the fair today. The wooden inlay items made by award -winning artisans witnessed the attendance of a large number of people. The stalls of the inlay work intrigued the audience the most.

The first stall of the inlay work by Punjab's pioneer Shilp Guru awardee Rupan Matharu and his National awardee son Kamaljeet was centre of attraction for the visitors. The inlay work items put on the display included Rs 20 lakh priced wooden table with the finest inlay work. A hard work of 4.5 years has gone into the making of the wooden table.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Harbir Singh said special arrangements had been made on behalf of the administration to encourage the inlay work. He said after seeing their crafts, Rural Development and Panchayat Minister Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa had invited him from Chandigarh.

Kamaljeet Matharu, who works under the name of Master Creations said he had got the art in heritage. His father Ruhan Matharu is the first person of Punjab to receive the Shilpguru Award from the Union Textile Minister, Smriti Irani for year 2016. Apart from this, he and his father have also received National Award, National Merit and State Award.

He said he had brought the folding table, especially at the fair, which cost Rs 20 lakh and it took about four and a half years to make it.

The entry for senior citizens above 65 years of age will be absolutely free on Wednesday.

JALANDHAR Tribune Wed, 31 Oc www.readeh

Saras Mela, Hoshiarpur 2018.

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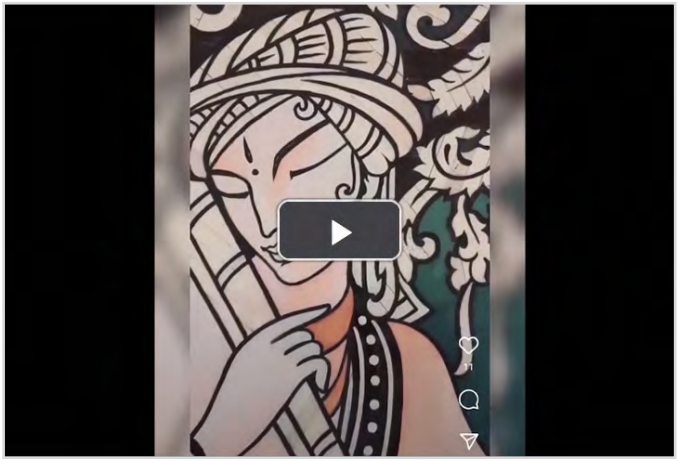
## Video



Bone and Ebony Wood Inlaid Wall Hanging

Featured by Handicraft of India

Kamaljit Explaining the Art

Live Demonstration at Exhibition

Design Resource

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Table and Chair Making

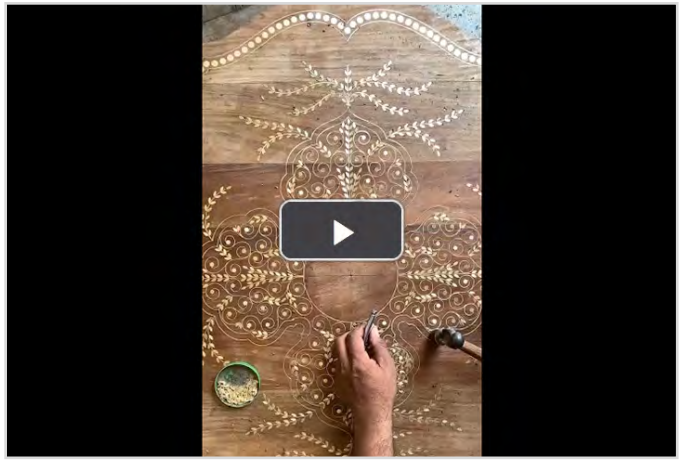
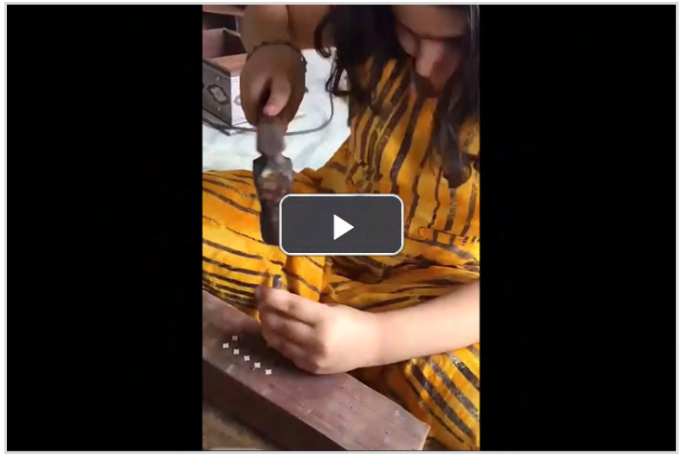


Table Top Making



Fixing Square Motifs

Line Fixing Process

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Table Top Inlay Process

Wood Surface Smoothening Process

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## Contact Details

This documentation and content was done by Shri. Rupan Matharu and Sanmati Hosure at IDC, IIT Bombay.

You can get in touch with him at matharukamal86[at]gmail.com

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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